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November 13th, 1975, Issue NO. 44

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WINTER HERRING

Learning the Priorities

BASIC CODFISHING

Fall Mackerel

BEACH BUGGIES

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PARTY BOATS

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CODFISHING

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

THE ONLY WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

Volume 10, No. 44 November 13th, 1975.

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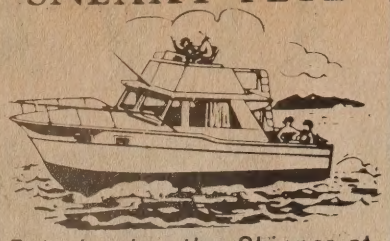

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Try Party Boats

by Matt Ahern

Are you lucky enough to know a master fisherman? "Master fisherman" meaning the guy who goes out day after day or week-end after week-end and brings back fish, seemingly without difficulty. If you do, buddy up to him and ask where he first got his experience, where he first learned the "ropes". I'm sure he'll tell you some part of his fishing life is, or was, spent aboard party boats.

It's my conviction that there is no method of fishing which will turn a novice into an expert angler sooner than party boat fishing. It is aboard these craft where beginners quickly earn the title of "master fisherman".

No inexperienced fisherman should expect to join this select group with but one trip under his belt. He won't. Perhaps not for many trips will his skill increase to the point where he knows exactly what to do every step of the way; increased to the point where he can correctly name, sight unseen, each kind of bottom fish by its own peculiar way of biting or by the particular fight it gives once the hook is set.

It takes much experience to do this, but party boat "regulars" do it all the time. Which is quite an accomplishment when one considers the variety of fish available to the party boat angler.

But in the meantime, as the seasons progress, the novice will be building a solid fishing foundation by catching fish of all kinds, plus learning the basic skills necessary to fish anywhere confident in the knowledge that what he has learned will put fish in his bucket.

Uninitiated fishermen often toy with the idea of giving party boat fishing a whirl, but hesitate, feeling too much is involved. Such is not the case, of course; party boat fishing is one of the easiest methods of fishing to be found anywhere.

For one thing, the fisherman need not do nothing else but fish. The hard work of finding fish is done by experts who excel at their job. Nor is the securing of bait a problem as it's supplied with the fare. It isn't even necessary to invest in an outfit as tackle can always be rented for the day at a nominal sum. In that way, nothing much is lost if the angler feels this fishing is not for him.

But I'll say this: In more than fifty years of party boat fishing, I've known few anglers who didn't become party boat fanatics, or known one who didn't literally count the days until the next trip. Such is the appeal of party boat fishing.

Renting tackle has both good and bad points. The good points you have just read about. The bad points are these: Not only does rented tackle get used, it gets abused. The rod may be too heavy or too light for the fishing being done on a particular day, the guides bent or grooved, or missing altogether. The reel, too, may leave much to be desired. So the smart fisherman considers the eventual purchase of his own tackle.

Tackle used depends on the kind of fishing intended. Some fishermen do their party boat fishing in sheltered bays where light equipment can be used for maximum sport. Others fish strictly in the ocean where sturdy tackle, rugged enough to handle heavy sinkers and having the necessary oomph to sink the hook in fairly deep water, is mandatory. It's possible to use medium-weight tackle both inshore and offshore, but the lighter bay stuff can't be used in the ocean with good results.

All of which means the well-equipped fisherman who expects to fish both bay and ocean should have a good selection of rods: A heavy one for codfishing, a medium-weight for fluke, sea bass, porgies, blackfish, etc., and while strictly not necessary, a light-weight bay rod for flounder and other smaller bay fish.

Reels should match the rod used and be the best the fisherman can afford. There are many good quality name brand reels on the market, reels that will give years of satisfactory service with minimum care. They are worth every penny, so therefore the fisherman is advised to stay away from bargain "Hong Kong Specials". Party boat fishing is rough on bargain equipment and it's no place to save a buck.

It's quite possible to use one reel for both offshore rods, although it is convenient to have two: One filled with 100 yards of 20 pound test monofilament for the medium-weight rod will do and 100 yards of 30 pound test mono will fill the bill nicely for codfishing. For all around bay fishing, ten pound test is satisfactory.

Incidentally, while on this important subject: Fishermen should never use spinning tackle aboard party boats; particularly when fishing aboard the offshore, deep-water boats. It will not do the job and is quaranteed to cause much frustration, plus loss of fish.

Now we come to the most important part of the fisherman's equipment. As no fisherman should skimp on his rod and reel, neither should he invest in cheap fishooks. As I've stressed in several articles, the use of all other tackle is but an aid in getting that all-important hook into the fish's mouth. The fisherman who spends a good part of a day's pay on a rod and reel and then defeats its purpose by buying shoddy hooks is foolish indeed.

There is more to a fishhook than meets the eye. The price difference between two similar appearing hook packages may be only fifty cents, but there can be a world of difference in quality. Wy risk losing a possible pool-winning fish because of pennies?

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Truly, the adage of penny wise and pound foolish is applicable here.

Veteran anglers use only top quality hooks. Nationally advertised brands such as Mustad, Eagle-Claw and Pflueger are to be found in the expert's tackle box. The beginner can bet master fishermen know the type and hook size to use for the fish they seek. These fellows don't fool around; they are possitively fanatical on the subject of fishhooks.

Fishermen who wish to see a steady diet of fish coming over the rail can do nothing better than take a sincere interest in that curved bit of tempered steel.

Sinkers are no problem, although even this minor part of terminal tackle isn't just a case of using whatever is at hand. Bank sinkers are preferred by most party boat fishermen.

These tear-shaped weights will slide past many bottom obstructions where those of flat or diamond shape might easily foul. But even these two are preferred over the use of the surf caster's pyramid sinker which is sure to hang-up on the least bit of rough bottom.

Using the correct sinker weight is important. Too light and the sinker will fail to hold bottom. Too heavy and not only will the strain on the rod be excessive, but the fish are also prevented from putting up their usual resistance.

Big-fish pools add spice to the day's fishing. I know the big question often entering the novice's mind when the mate collects for the pool is: Should I, or shouldn't I? The decision, of course, is the fisherman's, but let me tell you a little story.

The largest fluke I ever saw caught on a hook weighed a shade over 19 pounds. It was taken by a first-time angler: a lady who was not in the pool because her husband had foolishly decided she didn't stand a chance against the "sharp-shooters" on board. This happened over 45 years ago, but I recall the incident clearly because I was the mate who collected for that pool. I often wonder how long it took that poor gut to live it down--if ever. Be guided accordingly.

Which party boat for the beginner? It depends on many things, the most important being the kind of fishing most enjoyed. What may be a "lucky" boat for some, may not be for others. I won't deny that some boats do seem to be "luckier" for fishermen.

When the novice feels he's found a boat on which he is comfortable, he should stick with it and become one of the "regulars". He'll catch fish, find congenial companionship, make a lot of friends, and eventually earn that coveted title of "master fisherman".

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DIVING

with John Fennimore

San Diego Wreck Adventure

July 19, 1918, three and a half months after the U.S. entered into war with Germany. It was over three years after the sinking of the Lusitania, and over two years since Germany declared unrestricted submarine warfare. The 13,860 ton U.S. Armored Cruiser San Diego was steaming out to sea when it was racked by explosion and sank 7.5 nauticle miles off of Fire Island. Due to the weight of her tremendous guns and above water structure she capsized and sank in minutes completely upside down. Six sailors were taken with with her, and this was the only major American warship lost in World War I.

The culprit was the German U-156 better known as the famous submarine Duetschland. She arrived at Fire Island in July of that year, and laid mines there and attacked shipping to the north. There isn't enough information to be completely sure whether the U-156 commanded by Captain Feldt sank the U.S.S. San Diego by torpedoes, or by one of its cleverly planted mines. Most information I was to find indicated that the cruiser was torpedoed. September 7 on her way home, Captain Feldt radioed a broken message to his base: "So far 41,000 tons....American light cruiser...San Diego and...cut cables...point 389..... U-156." It is unlikely that the U-156 would wait and watch to see what would fall into its trap. A cruiser could easily destroy a slow submarine on the surface. It is more likely that the U-156 encountered the San Diego and torpedoed it, thus giving Captain Feldt positive identification of his prize.

The 1870 ton Duetschland wasn't invincible. She was never to make it home. The U-156 encountered one of the 70,000 mines which were laid by the British. She was destroyed on the last leg of her journey home, sometime in late September.

There have been a few salvage attempts made on the Diego, some fairly successful, others a total failure. Last year commercial divers removed the propeller of the San Diego. When their barge tried to hoist it the tremendous weight of the prop dragged the barge and all its equipment under the waves.

The last time I dove on the Diego I ran across the propeller sitting in the sand. At first glance I didn't know what it was because it was so large. An extremely thick poly line floated straight up from the prop and ended about thirty feet above it. I then spotted a large lobster and went for him. The other divers I was with were amazed to find just my legs sticking out of the hub of the prop. My mask flooded and the lobster got away. The propeller has since been successfully recovered.

The most exciting and dangerous dive I was to make on the Diego was my second. The Research Vessel Black Coral left Bay Shore early that June morning. I was struck by a cold wind as we steamed through the inlet. This wind sent mountains of water crashing into the shallows. We got through the inlet and encountered many big lazy ocean swells for over three hours. The port and starboard stabilizers were then lowered to help cushion this salty abuse. Now were were in the vicinity of the wreck.

A shark was sighted off the starboard bow. He was big, twelve to fifteen feet long. The shark swung around and began to ride the ship's wake maybe three feet abeam of the hull. Then I spotted a sunfish floundering on the surface some 200 yards away. The shark then took off; its dorsal fin knifed through the water as it neared its prey. I grabbed the binoculars, and saw the shark ripping at the sunfish, throwing his head out of the water in a violent fury.

The search for the wreck began, and lasted for an hour. Loran had brought us to the general area. Now sonar would have to pinpoint the wreck. The buoys were dropped, and the anchor followed shortly. Line seemed to peel from the deck for an eternity as the anchor fell twenty fathoms to grasp the wreck.

Previously, I had decided that this time I was going all the way. Therefore, I would be diving with Captain C.R. Hersey the skipper of the Black Coral. My father had also come along to dive, but not to this depth. He had never gone that deep before. Rich, my brother was planning to dive the top of the wreck with my father. Rich got seasick on the way out, so dad had no one to dive with. Since we were all suited up, it was decided that he come with us. The only stipulation was that we stop at whatever depth my father is comfortable.

As I waited to dive something told me to give my father my regulator. I wanted to; I didn't have any reason. So I termed it pre-dive jitters, and put it out of my mind. We dove in feet first, and headed for the bottom. The water was cold and dark green in color. We descended down without any difficulty. The anchor had choked up on the wreck, and now dug in at 75 feet. All systems were go, so we slid down the side of the hull. We dropped down past the six inch Naval rifles sticking out of their gun ports. Now on the sandy bottom twenty fathoms below, we began our search for lobster and trinkets.

We swam three feet off the bottom, so as not to stir up the silt. I was leading this little group, my father and Captain Hersey swam side by side behind me. I pulled a lobster out of his burrow, and threw him in my bag. Swimming further, we ran across a big gun turret sticking our of the sand. I noticed a large bump in the sand beneath me. It turned out to be an anglerfish of at least fifty pounds. I discovered this fact in the nick of time, because I had planned to stop and rest on this little pile.

Moving away from the wreck we began investigating these little pockets of debris that were jilted from the wreck durisng the explosion and sinking. The Captain ran across a telescope, or something which resembled one. My father found a brass step which had beautiful grill work and engraving. A blown lift bag was attached to it as proof that a diver once had tried to raise it. Just before we turned around to go back, I spied something sticking in the sand. It was a brass plate nine inches in diameter. Later I was to discover that this was a pelorus. It looked like a big brass compass card. The degrees were raised, easily read and the oversized needle swung back and forth like it was new. It was bent in the shape of a right angle as a result of the torpedoeing. Pelorus' are now used as an aid to navigation. It could have been used for that purpose, or to aim a cannon.

On the way back they were leading, and I brought up the rear. Time was ticking away against us. We got back

to a spot under the anchor and headed up. We passed the guns once again, and then it happened. At a depth of seventy five feet, I was kicked in the head. My mask flooded immediately, and I fell backwards toward the razor sharp jagged metal below. I made a sharp turn, and avoided the metal. Clearing my mask, I headed upward once again. Reaching the top of the wreck I discovered that my buddies were gone. The anchor line was barren of divers, so I sensed that something was wrong. Instinct told me to come straight to the surface. Upon breaking the surface I made a 180 degree turn and saw the Black Coral. I heard my buddies yelling for help, so I turned another 90 degrees, and swam to them. When I reached them, the Captain had alread dropped my father's tank and inflated his vest. The Captain then began to ditch his own tanks. I didn't think that this was such a good idea, so I didn't even attempt to jettison mine. The Captain then stopped ditching his tanks. I figured that the gain in speed wasn't worth the loss of air. We then began dragging my father who was now unconscious to the boat.

I was later to discover what happened. When my father reached the top of the wreck he was exhausted. So tired that he just threw his find. At that moment his regulator failed, and he went for the Captain's. Now totally exhausted he grabbed the regulator and took three breaths. Bubbles were swirling all around him. He couldn't see. He handed the regulator back to the Captain, but he wouldn't take it. My father figured that he was killing the Captain, so he let the regulator go and headed for the surface which lay seventy five feet above him. What my father didn't know was that the Captain had a pony bottle tucked between his double tanks. So when my father handed the regulator back, the Captain already had one! On the surface my father was blinded by the sun. When the vest was inflated, he put his head back and fell unconscious.

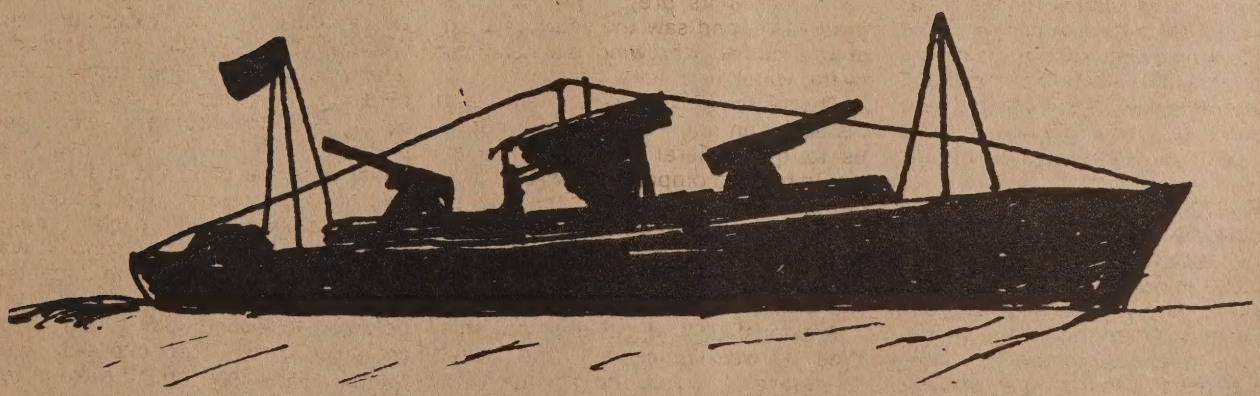
We had traveled about twenty five yards when a diver with a rope swam out to us. He grabbed my father, and the men on board started pulling them in. We couldn't keep up, so the Captain and I let my father go and swam back on opposite sides of the boat. We had surfaced over 100 yards away, and it would have been rough going without the aid of that diver with the rope.

When we got to the stern of the Black Coral, we were told that we were down one minute beyond the decompression limit. The Captain and myself had to do some emergency decompressing. We swam down to the keel of the Black Coral, and hung off at ten feet for a few minutes.

The crew then helped us aboard. My father lie on the deck semi-conscious as one of the nurses administered the oxygen. Soon he was revived, and the crew wrapped him in a blanket and carried him into the cabin. During the excitement of this life or death situation my brother forgot his own troubles, and began working like a well oiled machine. The anchor line was cut, engines gunned up and we raced for home. The Coast Guard was called, and we requested an ambulance to be waiting at the dock. When we arrived, the police were there, but no ambulance. The police then radioed for an ambulance. It came in ten minutes, and two attendants carried my father from the boat. I rode in the ambulance, and my brother followed in the car. He was taken to Southside Hospital. There he spend the night, and the next day I brought him home. It was later discovered that he had pneumonia, and had to stay out of work for a month. He's alright now, but has since given up diving.

The pelorus will always sit on my desk no matter where I go as an everlasting reminder of the unselfish actions which saved the life of my father on that epic day.

DEUTSCHLAND



Commerce Raider

Surf Side with Doc Muller

BEACH BUGGIES
Part One

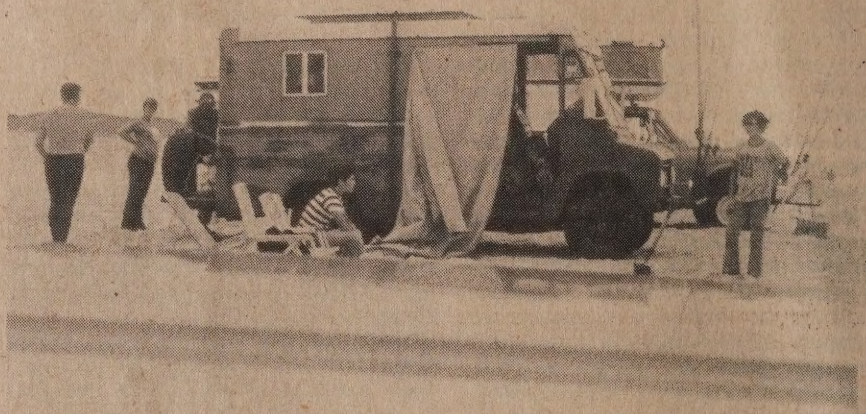
I was talking to my neighbor and fishing companion, Ken Smith, the other day about buggies. Ken was a Montauk regular back in the 1940's and I love to hear him recount the stories of men in the Montauk surf during the early days of surf casting.

Ken's buggy in those days was a model A Ford that doubled as a beach vehicle and sleeping quarter. The Model A would take him from his Manhattan office to Montauk and then from the town to the best piece of beach.

Beach vehicles have changed a lot since those days. Today the 4-wheel drive machines may have automatic transmissions or even air conditioning. Although many of the fellas have expressed a lack of confidence in the automatic 4-wheel drive, I rented one on Hatteras Island and drive it in the worst of sand without a single problem. At The Fisherman we have a Ford pickup with automatic 4-wheel drive and we have found it to be more than acceptable for Long Island beaches.

There are many kinds of beach buggies in use today. They range from the Volkswagon "Beetle" to large campers, to specially improvised home made models. One of the most popular vehicles has to be the Chevy Blazer—Ford Bronco type machines. They are small but you can store a surprising amount of gear in them especially if the rear seat is removed. Of course the addition of a storage box on the roof gives added space inside and it does not preclude the placement of rod holders on the roof either.

The space behind the driver's seat is small but it is big enough for an average sized man to curl up and sleep. There is a serious problem with these small buggies and I think it deserves consideration by both the manufacturers and the consumer. There has been no provision apparently for the corrosive eeffects of salt water, its spray, fish juices, and the ever present sand. The paint seems to be extremely vulnerable to these forces and when the paint is gone and the metal rusts the sheet metal on the floor of the buggy, the tail gate, or under the wheel wells may become weakened and it certainly is unsightly which depreciates the value of the vehicle substantially. From my experience some other buggids hold up a little better, but if you do purchase one you should invest in an extra coat of undercoating such as Tuf-coat, and think seriously about modifying the surface protection either with another coat of paint or frequent applications of waxes and silicone sprays.



George prepares his step-van special for a day of fishing and picnicking at Democrat Point.

The personal sized beach vehicles, like the Blazer, cost between $4700 for a stripped model with 4-wheel drive to over $6000 when the fisherman adds luxury items and frills.

Pick up trucks are very popular beach vehicles. They are functional and comfortable. With a cap on the rear they can sleep one or two people and store a substantial amount of gear too, but with the addition of a camper the truck becomes a home away from home. Today's campers are comfortable, convenient, and thoughtfully engineered to be efficient and practical. Surprisingly, the cost of a pick up is very similar to that of the Bronco type buggy. A stripped down 4-wheel drive pick up truck would cost around $5000 with an additional $300 for a cap. It is important to remember, however that these vehicles can not be used on the beach with the standard equipment tires. The surf fisherman will have to make a substantial investment in tires alone. Depending upon where and how he fishes the tires may cost in excess of $100 each!

Van-type machines are common and of course they have the advantage of providing a great deal of storage space. Van buggies without 4-wheel drive can be difficult to use on soft sand beaches but generally perform well on firmer sand.

Of all the home-made vehicles that I've seen, the most interesting and practical has to be the one that friend George Swanson drives. George took a 1966 International M 1200 Step-Van and modified it for beach use. The truck was originally used as a butter and egg van and therefore the insulation in the roof and walls of the truck was superior to those step-vans that were used for delivering bread or dry cleaned goods.

George feels that he was fortunate to get a model with a Chummings 6 cylinder gasoline engine. The engine was well made and has pushed the van around 240,000 miles and still manages to get around 13 miles per gallon on the highway and around 7 miles per gallon on the beach.

To round out the vehicles modification for beach use George hunted around for a C 120 army vehicle, scavenged for the parts to convert to 4-wheel drive. The finished product weighs around 10,000 pounds, sleeps three, has kitchen facilities, a toilet, television and stereo, and still has enough power to pull a camping trailer!

George attributes the success of his

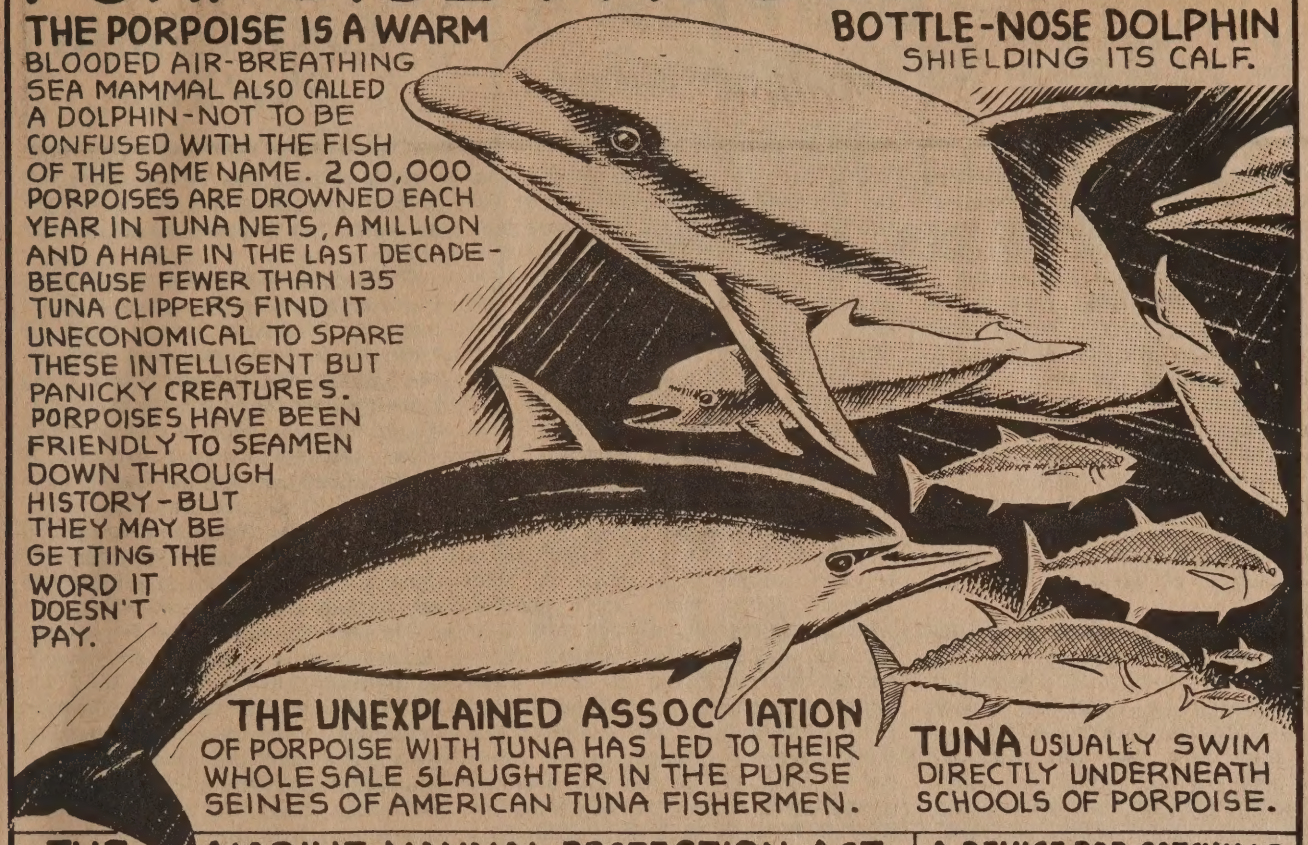
(Continued on page 15.)

PORPOISE PROBLEMS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

THE PORPOISE IS A WARM BLOODED AIR-BREATHING SEA MAMMAL ALSO CALLED A DOLPHIN - NOT TO BE CONFUSED WITH THE FISH OF THE SAME NAME. 200,000 PORPOISES ARE DROWNED EACH YEAR IN TUNA NETS, A MILLION AND A HALF IN THE LAST DECADE - BECAUSE FEWER THAN 135 TUNA CLIPPERS FIND IT UNECONOMICAL TO SPARE THESE INTELLIGENT BUT PANICKY CREATURES. PORPOISES HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY TO SEAMEN DOWN THROUGH HISTORY - BUT THEY MAY BE GETTING THE WORD IT DOESN'T PAY.

BOTTLE-NOSE DOLPHIN SHIELDING ITS CALF.

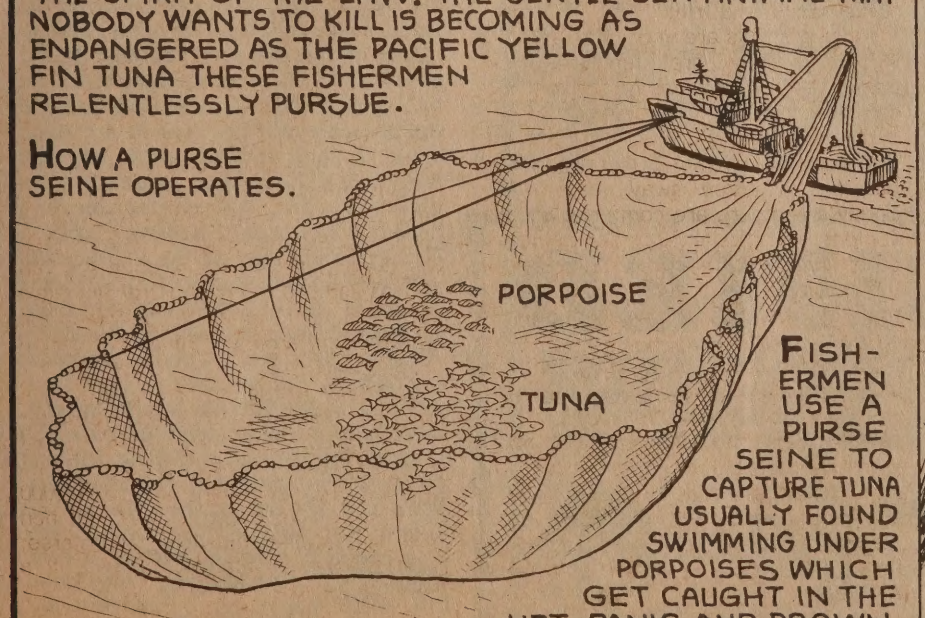


THE UNEXPLAINED ASSOCIATION OF PORPOISE WITH TUNA HAS LED TO THEIR WHOLESALE SLAUGHTER IN THE PURSE SEINES OF AMERICAN TUNA FISHERMEN.

TUNA USUALLY SWIM DIRECTLY UNDERNEATH SCHOOLS OF PORPOISE.

THE MARINE MAMMAL PROTECTION ACT PASSED IN 1972 REQUIRED TUNA FISHERMEN TO REDUCE THE DAMAGE TO PORPOISES TO "INSIGNIFIGANT LEVELS." BUT THE INDUSTRY MANAGED TO GET INTO THE LAW A GRACE PERIOD TO DEVELOP WAYS OF MEETING THE LAW. SO FAR THE INDUSTRY'S PROGRESS IN THREE YEARS OF SLAUGHTER HAS BEEN MINIMAL AND FAILED EVEN TO OBSERVE THE SPIRIT OF THE LAW. THE GENTLE SEA ANIMAL THAT NOBODY WANTS TO KILL IS BECOMING AS ENDANGERED AS THE PACIFIC YELLOW FIN TUNA THESE FISHERMEN RELENTLESSLY PURSUE.

HOW A PURSE SEINE OPERATES.



FISHERMEN USE A PURSE SEINE TO CAPTURE TUNA USUALLY FOUND SWIMMING UNDER PORPOISES WHICH GET CAUGHT IN THE NET, PANIC AND DROWN.

A DEVICE FOR CATCHING TUNA WITHOUT DROWNING PORPOISES IS PREFERABLE TO THE ALTERNATIVE: A CONSERVATIONIST-INSPIRED BOYCOTT OF TUNA FISH WHICH COULD SERIOUSLY AFFECT THE ENTIRE INDUSTRY.

SOLVING THE PORPOISE PROBLEM SHOULD NOT BE BEYOND THE SCOPE OF APPLIED SCIENCE.

THE BOTTOM LINE

with Scott Simons

BASIC CODFISHING *Part Two*

Last week in part one of this series we discussed the various tackle and rigs that are used for codfishing, so this week we're going to get into the types of bait and techniques that will produce cod.

First, let's assume that most of the winter codfishing in our area is done from open boats where a fare is paid. This is because most of us small boat and skiff fishermen don't have the knowledge, guts and stamina to challenge the cold, windy, unpredictable weather that accompanies the winter months. So the small boats are put in winter storage and their owners flock to the large open boats sailing for cod that afford safety and a large degree of comfort from the elements.

On a good day, the boats sailing for cod may carry anywhere from 40 to 80 fishermen. That's 40 to 80 competitors for the codfish to be caught on any given day. Let's suppose for a moment that an open boat sails one day with 50 passengers and 100 codfish are taken. The fishing reports for that day will read, "an average of 2 or more fish per man were taken," which is technically true, but misleading. Because a catch of 100 cod between 50 anglers will more than likely break down something like this: four anglers will take 10 cod each, eight anglers will catch 5 each, and the remaining 20 fish will be distributed among the other 38 fishermen. So the "average" angler should expect to catch none-to-one cod when he reads of "an average of 2 or more fish per man." The trick is to stop being "average" and work to become one of those 12 out of 50 anglers that consistently takes 3 out of 4 of the codfish that come over the rail.

Virtually all of the open boats fishing for cod provide one choice of bait: skimmer clams. Now, don't get me wrong, skimmer clams are a great bait for cod—but not so terrific when surrounded by scores of other clam baits. Why should he pass up ten or more clam baits to get to yours? But there are several things you can do to get the cod to choose your bait over the others, so let's talk about the clams for awhile before moving on to the more exotic baits.

The first thing to remember is that a codfish has probably never seen a naked skimmer clam out of its shell in his life. So don't believe any "pro" that tells you the bait has to look natural, unless you see him putting whole clams, shell and all on the hook and catch fish. The cod are going to eat your bait because it smells good, period. So pick out the pieces of clam from the bait bucket carefully and avoid those pieces that are all meat, which is hard and releases very little juice into the water that a cod can smell. You're much better off with a piece of bait that has the soft, gutsy part of the clam attached to it. It may not look as pretty, but it smells a heck of a lot more.

The second important aspect of using clams is the size of the bait used. Don't make the mistake of loading down the hook with as many clams as it will hold. Not because the cod won't take a big bait—they will. But too many clams may weigh down the hook so that it droops down and gets tangled around the leader, which can be disastrous. So stick to small, soft pieces of bait.

If you really want to scare the hell out of a cod, keep that naked skimmer clam dancing and jerking all around four feet off the bottom by constantly lifting your rod to see if you have a bite. Remember, cod are often very line shy and spooky, so the bait MUST BE KEPT AS STILL AS POSSIBLE. This is probably the most important "secret" there is to codfishing—fishing a dead bait. Make sure that you have enough line out so that your rig will not be lifted out of the bottom every time the boat is lifted up by a wave. Keeping the bait motionless is an art unto itself, and if you want to learn more about if read the article "Line Control," The Bottom Line, L.I.F. Volume 10, Number 35, September 11, 1975.

If you feel a lot of small taps, it's more than likely a bergall so ignore it. If the tapping stops, wait a minute and pull up to check the bait. If you keep loosing the bait to these light hits, move the hook up higher on the leader. If you keep trying to set the hook on these light taps, the bait will be jerking all around and the cod probably won't go near it. A codfish never "nibbles" at a bait—they will take it in one of two manners. A cod will often pounce on a bait, in which case you don't have to worry about detecting a "bite". But very often they will be finnicky and just swim up to the bait and gently inhale it. So it is a good idea to check occasionally by slowly raising the rod tip about a foot to see if a cod is mouthing the bait.

But regardless of how you fish a clam, there is still that competition from the other fisherman's clam bait. So why not do something different, and offer that fickle cod another choice—like scallop guts, or a strip of conch, or a crab? If you ever examined the contents of a cods stomach, I'm sure that you have found just about everything but a skimmer clam, unless it's one that he has just

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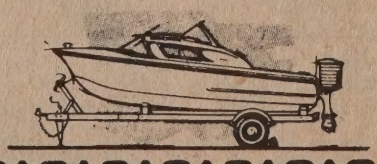

stolen from another angler's hook.

Due to the fact that clams are the exclusive bait used on open boats for cod, many anglers have the mistaken impression that codfish aren't predators, which couldn't be further from the truth! They will feed on squid, herring, whiting fry, mackerel, baby dogfish, small ling, bergalls—just about anything that swims that they can catch up with.

Mackerel may be fished as chunk or strip baits, but your best bet is to use whole tinker mackerel if you can get your hands on them. If you are ever lucky enough to catch some small tinker mackerel while snapper fishing in late summer, throw them in the freezer—they're worth their weight in gold. A whole mackerel can easily be rigged by passing the hook through the mouth and embedded in the gill plage, allowing the point to protrude. You could also use the same tandem hook rig that you use for strip baits when fishing for fluke. If you are using whole mackerel it is okay to give it a little movement, but chunks or fillets should be fished dead.

Early in the codfishing season there is usually an abundance of dogfish mixed in with the cod. They give birth to their young live, and it is not uncommon for a dogfish to give premature birth to a half-dozen or more little ones right on the deck—A perfect bait for that big 40 lb. cow you've always dreamed about. It stands to reason that if there is an abundance of baby dogfish swimming around the cod's domain, they're going to be feeding on them. So put one on your hook, preferably alive, and see what happens.

Live bait is preferred for cod, just as it is with all predators, and the angler whould make an attempt to use it whenever possible. If the fishing is slow, re-rig with smaller hooks and bait and try to catch any small whiting, ling or bergalls that may be used for bait. Caution: reel in small fish very slowly if you are in deep water so that they don't get the bends from the rapid change of depth. Use whatever small fish you may catch as bait for the cod that are down there.

Before you make your next cod expedition, stop in at your local fish market and pick up a couple of squid, herring, mackerel, herring, or whatever other small fish they may have. Using a different bait may just be the factor that will help to make you hi-hook for the day or attract the poolfish. Next week we'll wind up this series on codfishing with some techniques and tips that may increase your catch.

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WINTER HERRING

by Herb Buch

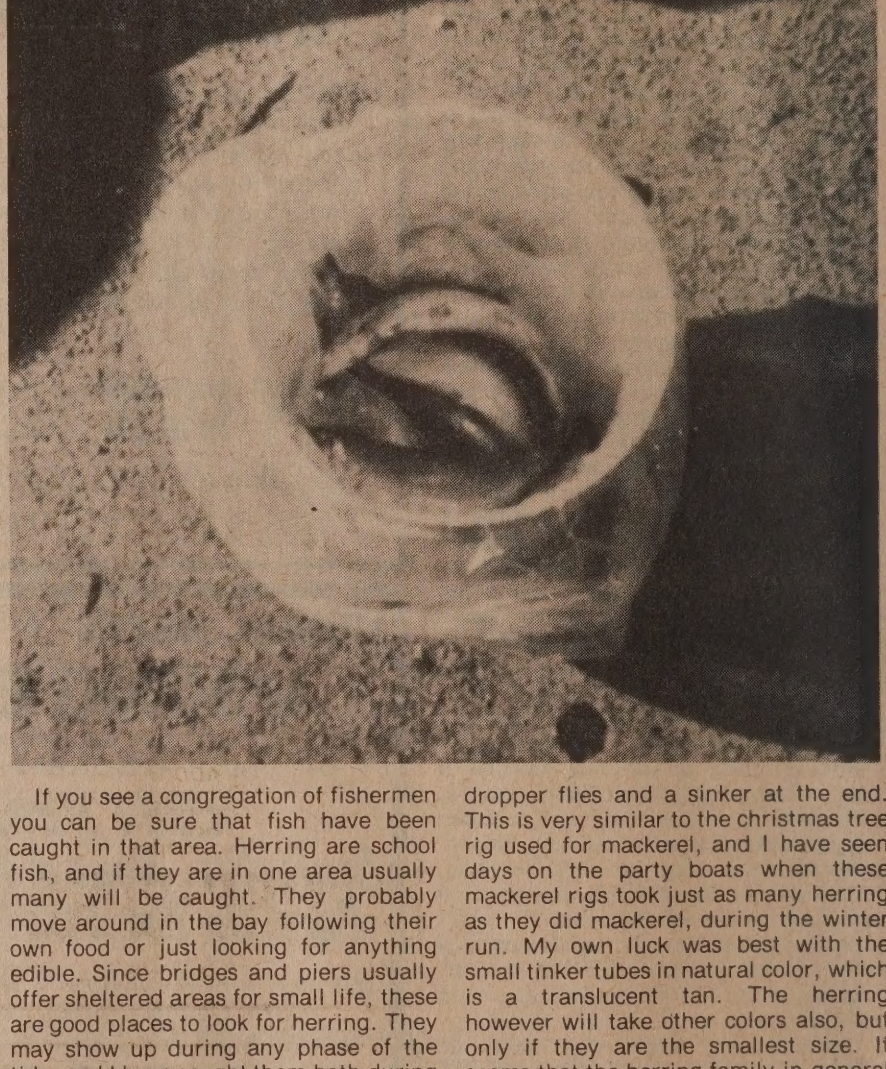
Winter is a dreary time for fishermen. Yet, in spite of the weather, many of us continue to fish right through till spring. I have spent lots of wintry days trying for white perch, ling, whiting, cod, flounder, and herring. When it comes to fishing from shore I have found herring to be fairly reliable, through December and January, and sometimes into March. I am now referring to the sea herring or common herring. This is the one that you buy pickled in jars or as filets. There are other herring in our area, such as the Hickory Shad which frequent the bays and inlets in the late fall, and the Alewives that run up the creeks in the spring. They are not usually around during the winter.

The sea herring which we catch average about twelve inches in length. They are not great fighters, but are very enjoyable on a light rod. Most fishermen use fresh water or light salt water spinning outfits. Light line seems to help, and depending on the rod, this can vary from eight pound test to twelve pound test.

I have personally caught these fish from Steeplechase pier and some of the jetties in Coney Island, from the Canarsie Pier, and from the north bridge at Cross Bay Blvd. The last location is my favorite, as it seems to be productive more often than the other places that I have fished.

There are probably many other locations which could produce herring, but these are the ones that I know for sure. Canarsie Pier is reached by leaving the belt parkway at Rockaway Parkway in Brooklyn. There is plenty of parking space available during the winter, but if the fish are running, fishing space in a productive area may be hard to find. The north bridge of Cross Bay Blvd. is also reached by using the Belt Parkway in Brooklyn. You exit going south on Cross Bay Blvd., which is toward Rockaway, and when you cross the bridge, there are two parking fields on the other side, one on each side of the road. Parking here is relatively limited, but fishing space is ample.

There are walkways on both sides of the bridge and a concrete fence to rest your rod against. The sidewalk is convenient for your tackle, and during the winter some fishermen set up small charcoal grills to warm their hands. Keeping fish fresh is no problem at this time of the year.



If you see a congregation of fishermen you can be sure that fish have been caught in that area. Herring are school fish, and if they are in one area usually many will be caught. They probably move around in the bay following their own food or just looking for anything edible. Since bridges and piers usually offer sheltered areas for small life, these are good places to look for herring. They may show up during any phase of the tide, and I have caught them both during the day and at night. So far as I can discover, there is no most favorable time or tide. Sometimes it is good on one tide for several days in a row. The fishing may become dead for awhile and then produce on another tide. We just don't know enough about these fish to really recommend specific places and times or tides. The reason for this is probably the fact that relatively few people fish during the winter, and most of them are after whiting, ling, or cod on the party boats or on the piers.

The most popular herring rig is a monofilament leader with three or more dropper flies and a sinker at the end. This is very similar to the christmas tree rig used for mackerel, and I have seen days on the party boats when these mackerel rigs took just as many herring as they did mackerel, during the winter run. My own luck was best with the small tinker tubes in natural color, which is a translucent tan. The herring however will take other colors also, but only if they are the smallest size. It seems that the herring family in general is partial to tiny baits. This is probably due to the fact that most of them are plankton feeders, which means that they strain tiny organisms out of the water as the water is flowing over their gills. The devices which do this job are called gill rakers.

Very often when I am flounder fishing in late winter or early spring I have observed swirls in the water near the boat. These swirls were made by herring sized fish and although I could not catch any, I did observe that the water contained many tiny shrimp like organisms that were actively swimming

around. My explanation for my lack of success is that my lures were probably too large, since the natural bait was only about three eighths of an inch long. Fresh water fishermen in the coastal streams of Connecticut often use small flies for the spring run of Alewives. Shad, which can run up to four pounds or more in size will not take ordinary sized lures, but must be tempted by tiny flies or midget sized bucktails called shad darts.

Most bridge fishermen use flies which resemble tiny minnows. In their simplest form, aluminum foil is wrapped around the shank of a hook and squeezed into shape. More durable flies are made by wrapping various forms of fly tying tinsel over a hook shank. To make such lures durable, the hook shank is wrapped with nylon thread first, then coated with cement just before the tinsel is wrapped on. Any hook on fly tying will give you enough information to turn out effective lures. I have used flies on hooks from size one to size eight, and caught fish on all of them, but I prefer a size six long shanked hook for my own lures. I have one imitation shrimp lure with a body of wrapped on translucent tan gum rubber material which I think looks very natural. It takes fish as well as the tinsel lures, and, one night it was the only lure they would take.

According to my fish handbook, these herring spawn in our area during November. The ones I catch do not usually contain any roe or milt so they are not in the bays to spawn, but probably just to feed after completing their reproductive cycle.

If you like pickled herring these fish are the ones to use. Since most commercial pickled herring is made from salt preserved herring, the product from fresh fish will taste a little different. Some kind of treatment is necessary for the average person because the many bones in the fish can be a problem. Since pickling is a time consuming process, I usually prepare the fresh herring by cleaning them, wrapping them in aluminum foil with onion rings, herbs, and strips of bacon, and baking in a slow oven of about 250 degrees for three or four hours. This softens the small bones so that they crumble like those of canned salmon and the fish is delicious. I got this recipe from a group meant for the preparation of Shad, which are just big herring.

My wife and I met a couple from England once, and they told us that they love to eat fresh herring. They would search our New York fish stores for it and they did not mind the bones. We prefer the slow cooking and softened bones as the flesh is delicious.

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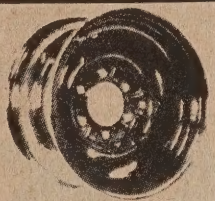

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Learning the Priorities

by Terry Wallace

I believe that anyone who really tries can become an expert fisherman for whatever species of fish he is seeking. Whether you're thing is bass fishing or flounder fishing there are techniques and know how which must be learned before you can count on catching fish, trip after trip.

Aside from the tackle to be used and the best baits which should be fished, there are other priorities which must be understood by anyone who wants to become an expert. One of these priorities is to find the right area for the species of fish that you are seeking. For years I've seen guys travel around to different areas every night of the week as if they were traveling salesmen rather than fishermen and the results are usually the same—no fish.

When looking for a good fishing spot look for the proper geographic conditions. Ask yourself if this area is what a fish would be attracted to: rips, sandbars, rocks, mussel beds, coves or holes. It is these conditions which attracts baitfish and gamefish.

After selecting one or two areas which are graced with good geographic conditions prepare yourself for a few skunkings, although if you're really lucky you may be successful on your very first trip.

If you are looking for flounder or other bottom feeders your best bet is to fish during daylight hours. If you are pursuing striped bass then try early mornings, late afternoons and nights.

When I am trying a new area out which I think will produce fish, I try to fish the area as much as possible for several days straight. If I am looking for bottom feeders, I usually try several mornings and then several afternoons before giving up on it. In this time period I try a variety of techniques from rod rigging to an assortment of bait.

Since many fishermen are seeking the bass I will put special emphasis in this area. If I am looking for stripers I won't fish an area unless it has two or three good geographic conditions which I have previously mentioned. Once I have selected my spot I usually wait for the high water mark to be somewhere in the early evening. Then for the next several days I arrive at my spot on the same time as the first day. By doing this I manage to overlap the tide day by day until I catch fish. If I catch fish one night at 10 P.M. then I will fish for the next several days one hour later on each following evenings.

There is also another aspect in finding the right spot which is worth mentioning. This is population. When I suggest that you find a spot, I mean one that doesn't get the same attention as Grand Central Station. I agree that there are some good fishing spots on the Island that are fished constantly by fishermen and are usually productive, but there is alot of ground in these parts that don't get any attention and there are fish to be had in these spots. Of my six fishing areas there is only one which is publicized to any degree and that is Cedar Beach on the south shore. Even in this area I tend to avoid other fishermen, not that I'm unsociable, but I've found in the past the fishermen who fishes alone, using his methods and techniques, is usually more successful than the five or ten other fishermen who are standing around swapping fish stories.

Finding out what habitats gamefish are likely to favor and the best times to catch them are only one part of becoming an expert. Aside from these conditions the expert must have a good field of knowledge of the tackle he is going to use and the techniques he is going to employ to catch whatever he is fishing for.

If you are a fisherman who is interested in catching bottom feeders it will be important for you to know what baits and rigs to use for certain fish. Keep it in mind that most bottom feeders prefer one of five baits: clams, worms, squid, crab or spearing. It is with these baits that I have caught a mixed bag of fish on one day at one spot. As for rigging your tackle it is important that you place your hooks, sinkers and swivels in the proper spots so that your bait will be in the general area where the fish will be feeding. If you do not know how to rig your rod for certain species don't be ashamed to ask another experienced fisherman or your tackle dealer.

The size of your rod and reel should vary from the type of fishing that you are going to do. If you are gonig to be bottom fishing from a boat a good 5 or 6 foot boat rod, with conventional reel is fine for all species. I have found that Penn. Beachmaster reels are perfect for this kind of fishing. If your thing is surf, pier or bank fishing, a good spinning rod is a must, although a good 10 or 11 foot conventional with dacron line can be used. Boat rods or spinning rods rigged for bottom fishing should be paired with 12 to 20 pound test line.

If you are a fisherman who is seeking larger fish such as the striped bass I would suggest a variety of baits and tackle depending on the area you are fishing and the techniques and methods that you are going to use in order to catch these gamefish. For instance, if you are going to be fishing in the south shore surf you will need heavier tackle. Rods from ten to twelve feet are a must. These rods should be capable of tossing a plug or

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live eel 150-200 feet out into the surf, although I have found fish more than once right under my nose in the wash.

While I prefer a longer and heavier rod on the south shore I like to go lighter from the beach on the North shore. There are times on the Sound when fishing can be compared to lake fishing upstate or in Maine while at other times it can roar with a deadly surf. My usual outfits for fishing here are a seven foot plugging stick when using lures or a nine foot bait casting outfit when fishing with worms or other baits. In either case I never use more than fifteen pound test line.

If you own a boat and like to fish for stripers with live bait such as bunker or eels, a good boat rod of about six feet will suffice. It should be matched with a reel that can handle twenty to thirty pound test line and the long run of the bass. If you prefer chumming for bass than much lighter tackle should be used. Usually a 4½ to 5 foot rod will do the job.

When plugging for stripers it is important to know how to work a plug. Many fishermen retrieve plugs as if they were in the Indy 500 and never catch fish because of the fast retrieve. It is important to work the lure slowly, giving the bass a chance to see and bite the target. Use a plug according to conditions. If it is daylight use poppers. Again, don't rush the retrieve. It is much better to work the plug slowly and to hear a good POPPING sound then to rush the lure over water quickly. During nightime hours use floating or sinking models for the best results. As for the brands of lures to use there are too many to mention. However, plugs such as the Rebel, Darter and Atom are on the top of my list.

If you have the proper tackle, some place you consider a good spot and the time and patience required, then you too can become an expert fishermen for whatever fish you want to catch.

BEACH BUGGIES
(Continued from page 8.)

machine to its weight and to the fact that the weight is so well balanced. Several families made the trip to Cape Hatteras during the Thanksgiving Holidays last year and had a ball with fluke and bluefish. Everyone was amazed at how easily the step-van powered along the beach. George usually runs with a tire pressure of fifteen pounds but had to drop to twelve on one occasion because his services were required to pull out other 4-wheel drive vehicles that had bogged down in some of the softer spots.

George prepares his step-van special for a day of fishing and picnicking at Democrat Point.

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CODFISHING

by Ron Onorato

As the chill winds of autumn blow with ever increasing frequency, marking the decline of the striper and bluefishing, it marks the start of another facet of Long Island fishing, codfishing. After a fall of chasing stripers and blues, many fishermen eagerly look forward to the challenge of codfishing.

Codfishing has many aspects that make it attractive to a wide range of fishermen. The brisk weather associated with codfishing is stimulating and invigorating. Gone are the weekend crowds and their problems. The prospect of catching big fish and ending up with a delicious meal to boot, add to its popularity.

Codfish prefer water temperatures in the mid 40 degree range. The key to good codfishing then, is right water temperature. On the south shore of Long Island, this usually means after mid November to the end of December.

The first cod are caught on the offshore wrecks, while hordes of dogfish work the open bottom. After a couple of weeks, the dogfish move out and the cod work their way to the open bottom grounds. Towards the end of the season, the fish can often be caught on the inshore wrecks.

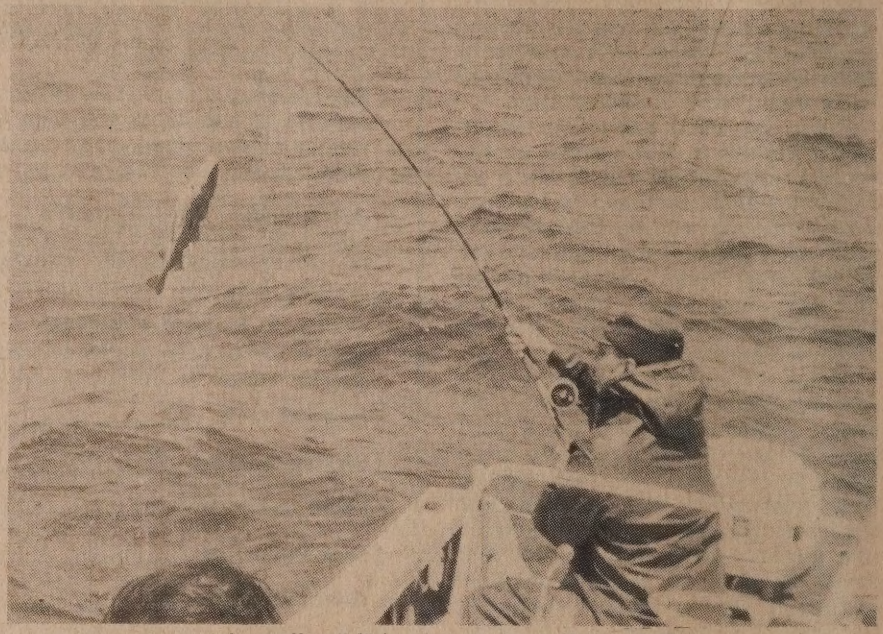
Unless your boat is equipped with Loran or some similar device, fishing these offshore wrecks that lie 15, 20 and even 30 miles off, is pretty much a party boat proposition. These vessels can pinpoint an amazing number of wrecks with uncanny accuracy.

I use stout tackle when fishing wrecks for several reasons. The cod run to some hefty sizes, and in order to lift some of these "cows" away from the obstructions, you have to lean on the fish. Sometimes a swift current is running, and the heavier outfit will allow the use of substantial sinkers.

A seven foot medium action rod with a matching reel of good 40 lb. test monofilament should handle anything that comes along.

Terminal tackle varies widely when wreck fishing. Some anglers fish strictly for cod, while others try for all species. If you plan on staying strictly with the cod, then it is best to use just a single hook. A 7/0 or 9/0 Eagle Claw hook snelled on 50 pound leader material. This single hook is tied three or four feet off the bottom. This high hook keeps the bait away from the ever present bergall, as well as from the obstructions on the bottom. A good tip here is to attach a small cork midway up the leader, as this keeps the bait floating off the bottom.

In all cases, whatever weight is necessary to hold bottom firmly, is the



A small cod is landed on the author's skiff.

Author with 40 lb. cod taken on a cold day in December.

weight that must be used. You don't want that sinker dragging your bait all over the wreck.

As far as bait is concerned, the skimmer clam is the most widely used. The one problem with it is the fact that bait stealers can clean the hook in a few seconds. If that is the only bait available, then it is wise to put on two or three whole skimmers. Some party boats go through the trouble of purchasing conch to use for bait. This is a superb bait as it is very tough and virtually impossible to remove from the hook. The conch is removed from the shell and hammered into a pancake type bait. The barb of the hook is inserted through the conch just once.

If you feel a steady tug on the hook, it usually means Mr. Codfish is knocking on the door. Hold off a second or so, and then lift the rod tip sharply. If you feel that you have a nice fish, try to get him off the bottom quickly, or he may run into the wreck and cut you off. In order to do this, you must fish a pretty tight drag. Once you get the fish off the bottom, you can slack the drag.

As the season progresses, the fish move onto the inshore wrecks. A good boatman with a dependable recorder and compass should be able to pick up most of these wrecks. These inshore wrecks lie anywhere from 1 to 5 miles offshore and are usually marked on nautical charts as they are pretty old.

You find out what kind of boatman you really are trying to locate these wrecks. The first time is the hardest. My average is around 70 % positive, with a little better percentage on some of the older, more established wrecks.

Fishing these inshore wrecks is pretty much the same as offshore, except the fish run smaller and the tackle can be scaled down proportionately. I usually find blacks mixed with the small cod on the inshore pieces. Don't bother to chum. Chumming attracts too many baitstealers.

When fishing open bottom during the early part of the season, the fish are usually found in 95 to 105 feet of water, and they gradually move into the 65 to 70 foot depths. Good fishing will usually last through December, but with the arrival of the really cold weather, the fishing seems to deteriorate. By January the fishing is pretty much hit and miss.

For the average boatman going out in search of cod, it is important to pay close attention to the latest fishing reports on what depths the best fishing is at.

Any sort of flasher or bottom recorder is all that is needed to find the required depth.

Unlike codfishing on a wreck where the cod are pretty well concentrated, open bottom cod are widely scattered and they must be brought together. This brings us to the two most important features of this type fishing; patience and plenty of chum.

After you set the hook where you want to fish, chumming operations start in earnest. The more chum you use the better the prospects of a good catch. The same skimmer clams that you use for bait doubles as the chum.

As a rule of thumb, you should have two and preferably three bushels of skimmers to use as chum. Once you get to an area, start chumming heavily and gradually ease off. I like to crack about half a bushel at first, then keep a steady pace of a handful of clams every few minutes.

Cracking clams is no big deal. With a stick or tool handle, crack the clam in your hand, and then toss it upcurrent of the boat. Wear rubber gloves when cracking. As you toss the clams up-current, they usually settle somewhere behind the boat.

Once you get a good chum line going sit back and wait. If after two hours you have no hits at all, then pull the hook and try another spot.

You can use a little lighter outfit when codfishing on the open grounds. A medium light boat rod with 25 or 30 pound mono line is as heavy as you need go. There is no need to horse the fish, and you can enjoy the fight a little better.

For terminal tackle, a 7/0 Eagle Claw is a good bet for both big and small fish. These are usually snelled on a two foot length of 40 lb. leader material. Tie the first hook 10 to 12 inches above the sinker, and then add another hook two or three feet above that one. As far as sinkers go, I have used as little as 6 ounces and as much as 20, depending on tide.

When you're really looking for inshore action, then Montauk Point is the place. Cod of mixed sizes virtually surround the point and can be caught in water as shallow as 20 feet. Good fishing lasts from late November through most of December before the fish return to deeper water.

There are several areas that are loaded with fish. The buoy right at the mouth of the harbor is good, Shagwong Reef, almost all the rips, and much of the south side. Fishing these areas is a little different inasmuch as you will be drifting for the most part.

Another interesting aspect of this fishing is the fact that a diamond jig will often out produce the conventional clam baits. A diamond jig weighing anywhere from 6 to 10 ounces is lowered to the bottom and jigged vigorously. This is a real producer in the early part of the season when the cod are gorging on sand eels. Hooked on jigs in such shallow water, the cod puts up a most respectable battle. Often when conditions are right, both bass and cod are jigged on the same grounds and then you're in for a real treat.

If you prefer the more conventional type fishing, the standard two hook rig will serve you well out here also. The cod out at Montauk take the bait in a much more vigorous manner then elsewhere. Often they hit as quick as a bergall. As soon as a hit is felt, let him have it quickly or you'll find yourself with a clean set of hooks. You can use a little smaller hook, say a 5/0 Eagle Claw, since the fish are generally school size.

All that's left now is for you to go out and give the cod a try. Rarely will you find a more pleasant tasting fish, so bundle up nice and get a load.

FALL MACKEREL— Just Passing Thru

by Bruce Sucher

The Big Capt. Bob of Sheepshead Bay pulled away from her berth and headed out. It was mild November weather and there was only a faint hint of a northwest wind. The sun was bright for so early and it looked to be one of those days that fishing stories are made from. We passed through the rough water of the rip near the Breezy Point jetty and out into the steady but small swell of the open ocean. It was time to check my tackle so I finished my coffee and went to the stern.

My rod was a light conventional rod with a Penn Surfmaster loaded with 20 lb. test monofilament. I tied on a two ounce diamond jig and about a foot above it I tied a large dropped loop. I attached a small surge tube of red and one foot above that one I made another loop and put another tinker tube of natural tubing. For mackerel I'll use a 2½'' length of 3/16'' tube, the end cut at an angle and then slide a 1/0 O'Shaugnessy hook into the tube. You can make them faster by simply cutting the tubing into 5 inch lengths and then cutting that in half, making sure you do it on a diagonal. The open slanting cut is the tail of the tube and you then pass the eye of the hook through the tail end and presto you have a mackerel tube. For an added bit of flash you can substitute a 1/0 gold plated claw type hook for the O'Shaugnessy type. It sometimes makes the difference between a great deal of mackerel and just a lot of mackerel. If you want to fill a large freezer, try the gold type.

I had another rod with me, a light whippy, one handed spin rod and I attached a #2 Hopkins No-Eql to the 6 lb. test line. This was my fun rod, and once I had my full of eating fish I would switch to the lighter outfit.

Mike, the mate, was filleting herring for the whiting and ling fishermen on board. These fish would be there all year, and the Boston Mac's only a few weeks, but a party boat has to please all the people all the time so the bait was prepared. The man at the rail to my left had the 8 ounce lead and Carlisle hooks tied tandem rig of a pro ling jerker. I had a feeling he was looking for the pool, as well as the larger bottom species.

As we came nearer Ambrose Light, I felt the engines slow down and I could picture Stew, the Captain of the Big Captain Bob, scanning the paper on his fish finder for the solid mass of migrating fish. The engine stopped and he yelled, ''We're right over them'', and at the same time hit the horn once to indicate lines down. It wasn't long, in fact it wasn't more than 30 seconds before the first duo of mackerel were doing a little tap dance on the deck. Soon every one was into fish. In most cases the jigs were hit on the way down. I felt a

Mike lifts aboard a quartet of nice macs.

Cleaning mackerel is a snap, especially if you have the mates do it for you.

hit and then another and another. The trio of fish fought in different directions and fought well. As I lifted the fish aboard, one flopped off the high hook but two stayed on to go into the bucket. Their beautiful green and silver were a sight for sore eyes, I hadn't seen a mackerel since last May.

I can remember fishing for mackerel in a completely different way. First off, you would take your boat and anchor it, not drift as were doing in the vicinity of the fish. Next thing would be to start laddling out a soupy trickle of bunker chum. We were not chumming either. I guess chumming is necessary when there are only scattered schools of fish or if a person does not own a fish finder. A method of finding mackerel which I have never seen is trolling. The party boats on the west coast occasionally use this method to find schools of bonito, a distant cousin of mackerel, and I'm sure it would work. A boat without an electronic fish finder could slowly troll a productive area, shiny jigs or lures set at different levels. When the first fish is hit, you stop the boat and begin jigging. Another method even simpler is to find another boat that is into fish and begin jigging nearby.

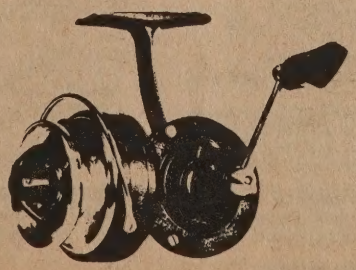
We held the fish near the boat for an hour, but then there were only strays being occasionally brought on board and then there was nothing. Stew bleeped the horn and we were on the lookout. The bottom of all buckets on board were well covered and burlap sacks had impressive buldges. We searched for about 15 minutes and stopped. Fish came slowly and we had to work for each fish we caught. They came mostly out at a time and an occasional duo. The bottom fishermen were doing well with the ling and whiting and some people switched over. All I did was let my rig hit bottom and began jigging. Within a few minutes I tied into a nice whiting and I had a good chance to compare their fighting characteristics. The mac's had it hands down. The fact that whiting have air bladders which swell or embolise, partially paralyzing them, as they rise rapidly to the surface is the cause of this dead weight fight. Mackerel are not encumbered with air or swim bladders and so must be constantly on the move or sink. Change in depth has little or no effect on their fighting ability.

The man next to me set his hook into something solid. It was the ling of the day, the money winner, and as soon as it came aboard he switched to a jig and tubes, which confirmed my suspicion that he was looking for the pool. The mackerel started coming faster and 4 fish at a time was not uncommon. The fish were flying now and I switched to my one handed light outfit. The Hopkins sank about 20 feet and was nailed. The fish tore off line like a snapper blue. When this one got to the boat it was tired, fought out. It hadn't been yanked green out of the water with still plenty of fight. As a gamefish on light tackle, it had proven itself and after about a dozen more my wrist was beginning to show signs of wear. But when fish are hitting I somehow forget such physical pains and as was the case, continued until there just wasn't any more time. The three of the horn was our signal to the return to the bay. There were a few diehards that pulled the last struggling fish on board out of the wake of the two twelve cylinder diesels.

The pool went to my neighbor with the ling. Then we all got down to cleaning the fish which is simplicity in itself. The fish have minute scales which rub off and all you have to do is head and gut the fish. Another method is to split the fish and lift out the backbone, leaving them more or less boneless.

They are an oily fish and many people do not like their flavor. My preferred way of cooking them is in a smoker. Since I don't own a smoker I'm pretty much at the mercy of an acquaintance with one, but let me tell you the flavor of smoked mackerel may well put in the market for one of these contraptions. Another method which is simpler and more convenient is to bake them in a well spiced tomato sauce. Broiling is effective and many like the fish that way, but it's not my cup of tea.

A few last works on fall mackerel fishing. Since you probably won't want them for fish or crab bait (blues, bass, fluke and blueclaws won't be back for another 6 months.ARGH) and old bait, frozen or otherwise, is bad bait. Wait for the spring run in that department. Since you're concerned only with eating fish be sure not to get carried away with the amount of fish you take home. I realize that when you're in the thick of a mackerel bonanza it's hard to curb your appetite for fish flesh. A lot of fishermen take out their slow or fishless days on these fine little fighters. When your burlap sack is full, stop and thing about what you're doing. If you're not thoughtful now, next spring may find us hard in a lot of water with only a few mackerel in it.



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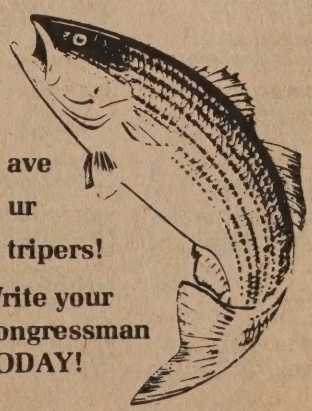

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

FISHING TRIP CONTEST

The Long Island Fisherman is holding a contest where our readers can win a fishing trip for two on the open boat of their choice and a $10 cash prize. All the fisherman has to do is stop in at one of the 45 convenient locations listed below and pick up an L.I.F. litter box for the rear window of his car. Each week the license plate number of a car spotted with a litter box will be published—if it's yours, just call *The Fisherman* by 5 P.M. that Friday and tell us the make and model of the car and you're a winner! If no call is received by the deadline, the cash prize will accumulate.

THIS WEEK'S WINNING LICENSE PLATE NUMBER IS:

452-QJO

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Marino's Tackle

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K & K Outboards, Inc.
Commodore Fishing Station

POINT LOOKOUT
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BAYSHORE
Mainland Marine

FARMINGDALE
Mike's Fishing Tackle

EAST ISLIP
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GREENLAWN
Greenlawn Sports

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Four Winds Tackle
Ronnie's Bait and Tackle

ISLIP
Islip Marine Center

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PORT JEFFERSON
Caraftis & Sons Boat Station

ROCKY POINT
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MOUNT SINAI
Ralph's Fishing Station

LONG BEACH
Long Beach Sports

LINDENHURST
Charlie's Bait & Tackle
Charlie's West Tackle
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AMITYVILLE
George Combs Tackle
Jonas Bait & Tackle
Sportackular

SEAFORD
Lon Wanser Tackle
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WANTAGH
Causeway Bait & Tackle

BELLMORE
Kwak's Tackle
Merrick Marine Supply

AQUEBOGUE
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North Fork Market

FREEPORT
Al Grover's
Charvin Marine
Grove & Atlantic Beer
Schultz Sporting Goods
Sea Isle Sports
Mako Marina
Anthony's Fishing Station
Dockside Diner
Hudson Point Marina

HAMPTON BAYS
Skidmore's Sport Shop
Three Aces Fishing Center
Bradley's Fishing Station

CENTEREACH
Plaza Sports

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Jamesport Fisherman Haven

SOUTHOLD
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GREENPORT
Art White's Bait Shop

LYNBROOK
Beckman's Tackle

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BABYLON
Hi-Hook Fishing Station
Augie's Bait & Tackle
Babylon Fishing Station
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Weekly winners of the L.I.F Litter Box Contest may chose a trip for two aboard one of the following boats as their prize:

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Marlin III

CAPTREE
Speedy V
Capt. Ben Litwin
Capt. Joseph Fleet

FREEPORT
Starstream II
Aloma II

SHEEPSHEAD BAY
Amberjack IV
Cheif

NORTH SHORE
Port Jeff Ace
Betty W

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Report

MONTAUK

Captain Richard Rade called to tell us of the fantastic fishing in the Block Island area this past week. Average catch per man is 75 to 100 fish, the bulk of which are big porgies and big humpback seabass to 6 pounds, blackfish to 14 pounds, gorilla bluefish. On Sunday 8 codfish to 20 pounds were also mixed in with the catch. The fish are all over the Block Island area and should hold up for at least another week or two. The water is still very warm, as evidence by the two triggerfish and 1 fluke that were taken on Sunday.

Captain Paul Forsberg of the **Viking Star** reported only fair fishing on the Block Island wrecks and banks. Codfish average 12 to 15 pounds with the pool around 30. Huge seabass, porgies, bluefish and blackfish are mixed in with the catch.

Captain Paul Sundberg of the charterboat **Montauk** reported that the bass fishing picks up when the weather is cool but then seems to drop off again as soon as the weather gets nice like last week. The water temperature actually increased to 62 degrees from the series of 70 degree days in a row. On Saturday morning 15 medium sized bass were taken with a bunch of bluefish. Sunday morning was good bass fishing, but in the afternoon the catch changed almost entirely bluefish. The captain also told us that he heard of a 236 lb. mako shark that was weighed in at the Montauk Marine Basin over the weekend that had been taken in 210 feet of water 22 miles out, another sign of the water's warmth.

Byron Mylod and P. Rippy with their catch aboard the "Peconic Queen II".

Captain Warren Hader of the charterboat **Devilfish** told us that Saturday was very good fishing despite the rainy and windy weather. On Sunday morning's trip 18 bass and 32 bluefish were taken. In the afternoon trip 72 bluefish were taken 8 to 20 pounds. Trolling parachute rigs on outgoing tide is producing the bass, and umbrella rigs are taking the bluefish. Sunday's unbelievable boat traffic made fishing a little difficult. The captain said he still has a few weekday and weekend open dates for bass and bluefish charters.

Peter Ermalinski of the private boat "Lady Shazaam" called to tell us that on Saturday he took out Bob Meglochin, Norm Bach and Charlie Nappi of the **Sea Witch II**. They were trolling bucktails on 350 feet of wire at the Elbow and took 10 bass to 22 pounds and 20 bluefish to 14 pounds. Peter was also very shocked when a 3 pound fluke also grabbed one of the bucktails.

On Wednesday Stu Miller and Scott Simons of **The Fisherman Staff** went out after blues and stripers on Scott's boat. They could not smell a bass, but did fill the box with 22 big choppers, 9-14 pounds, squidding with A-27's and also 4 ounce Ava Diamond Jigs.

PROMISED LAND

Art Brand of the **Promised Land Fishing Station** said that flounder fishing has picked up a little but is still only fair. Best areas have been close to the station in Napeague Harbor and off Hicks Island with the better catches around 20 fish. Some nice blackfish to 7 pounds are being taken on skimmer clams off Eastern Plains Point at Gardiners Island.

HAMPTON BAYS

The 1975-6 duck season is almost upon us. Charlie Miller and Ernie Behrle want to remind readers that they will again be taking duck parties this year. They have two floating blinds, a large oversized decoy rig, a scooter for those who like lay down shooting, and hopefully plenty of good shooting. This year looks very promising as there are already a large number of ducks in the area, including geese. Past years have been very successful. Hunters are asked to do no more than come and have a good time, as everything is catered to them,

The Viking Skipper III has been doing an excellent job on striped bass and bluefish using bucktails and AVA-27 diamond jigs squidding as can be seen in this photo. The boat is sailing open and the fishing is very productive off the Rips at Montauk.

including having the decoys preset before their arrival and having their birds retrieved by "Dummy", Charlie's Lab. For information, call Ernie at (516) 728-0711 or Charlie at (516) 728-6451.

MORICHES BAY

Ben at **Tadsen's Fishing Station** said that Sunday was a beautiful day until the fog rolled in. The flounder fishing is only fair but getting better. Best area for the flatties has been at Great Gun Beach and in the channel running up to Great Gun Beach. Crabbing has been excellent between buoy 27 and 29 on the north side of the channel. Very slow bass fishing.

Romona Seifert of the **Silly Inlet Fishing Station** told us that the flounder fishing has been really good. The fish are big and fat and range from ¾ to 1½ pounds with many of the fish filleting size. Best action is off the Coast Guard

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Jerry Roth, Pete Tannebaum, Duke Gander and Harry Zucker from Far Rockaway caught over 100 flounder at Havens Point on bloodworms. Photo courtesy of Skidmore's Fishing Station.

Radio Tower and off Havens Point. Big catches of large blue claw crabs are being taken east of buoy 42 at the edge of the hole there. Incoming tide has been most productive for the flounder, but chumming with mussels is very important and you must wait out the fish for 15 to 20 minutes.

WEST SAYVILLE

South Bay Fishing Station (Closed for the season) reports good flounder catches at Nichol's Bay and off Heckshere from ½ to ¾ of a pound on worms and skimmer slivers.

Young's Fishing Station reports good flounder fishing off Brown's River at the Marker Buoy and buoy 5. Fish are running up to 1 pound plus and are taking worms and red died clam.

CAPTREE

Captain Bob Joseph of the **Captain Joseph Fleet** told us that fishing on local wrecks and the offshore artificial reef is producing a mixed bag of seabass, big porgies, blackfish, bluefish and a couple of cod. Flounder fishing has been picking up in the bay but the action is only fair.

Captain George Tweedy of the **Captain Scotty** told us that the bluefishing has been erratic, one day excellent the next day picky. Friday and Saturday were two of the excellent days, while on Sunday there was a slow pick all day. Chumming on both wrecks and open bottom is producing. George said that the cod should be in in enough quantity in the next week or so to make codfishing worthwhile. The first cold snap should start things rolling.

The **Lady Ann** has had good bluefishing every day, 5-20 choppers per man, 8-18 pounders Monday through Friday, and 4-16 pounders on Sunday. 2 codfish were mixed in on Friday. Cod should get better each day now and seem to indicate a good cod season coming on us. Captain Neil advises that the **Lady Ann** starting Friday will be sailing open at 6 A.M. mainly for cod but will also anticipate blues and seabass.

OAKBEACH

Bill at **The Store** says there has been a lot of bass action for people who put in the hours, like 20 or 30 hours a week. Al Hansen and Bob Brumby loaded up Wednesday and Thursday. Al had a 21 and 24 pound bass and a 16 pound blue all on live eels on incoming water. Bob nailed a 25 and 21 pound bass on Wednesday also on incoming water on eels. A 39.9 pound striper was taken Thursday by an unnamed angler on an eel. All this was at Cedar Beach. Bob Smith on Sunday, got a 22 pound striper , on a flooding tide on a live eel, at the Sore Thumb. Another 36 pounder was taken Sunday by a second unidentified nimrod. No doubt lots of secret fish were taken as well. Democratic Point witnessed a blitz on Friday evening for 15 pound class stripers which took almost everything. Chummers are taking schoolies under the Moses Bridge, as angler Marty Gensler can testify. On Tuesday Bill, co-owner of **The Store** CLAIMS that he caught blues and bass out at Montauk, though nothing big. Flounder action is slow around **The Store**, but angler Pete Lanzetta took 15 on Saturday out of the Oak Island Cut. Some blackfish are still around going to 2 pounds, from in front of **The Store**. Blacks are also still at the Kismet Reef on fiddlers and green crabs. Good blue claw activity around the Sore Thumb.

BABYLON

Hi-Hook Fishing Station reports 55 blackfish taken by one of his boats Saturday at the Kismet Artificial Reef, fish ranging from 1 to 3 pounds on fiddlers. On Sunday one of Mario's skiffs returned with 37 flounder up to 1 pound taken on worms south of the Head buoy, in the Babylon Cut and east of the Moses Bridge on the north side.

LINDENHURST

Charlie's Bait and Tackle says the big thing is stripers off the Old Coast Guard Station at Gilgo up to Cedar Beach on black and white Sekora umbrellas and big Rex bunker spoons, in 20-25 feet of water, along with some blues. Good bluefish catches were made on Sunday in 85 feet of water 160 degrees out of the inlet for trollers. Good catches of flounder in the local bays with Grass Island the best, fish up to 1½ pounds. Blacks are still in residence on the

Fred Jimenez of Brooklyn nailed these blues at Pt. Democrat on bunker chunks. Photo courtesy of The Store.

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Joe Privitera of Deer Park took this nice striper off the Sore Thumb on live eels. Joe caught the bass on the outgoing tide. Photo courtesy of The Store.

Kismet Reef, and their tastes continue to run to fiddler crabs.

Dukes Bait and Tackle reports lots of bass from the beaches on live eels and trolled off Cedar Beach on Lupo spoons. Best bet for flounder is the East West Channel off Amityville and Lindenhurst and also on the Bayshore flats. Blackfish are very good on the Kismet Reef and off the Sore Thumb.

AMITYVILLE

Jonas Bait and Tackle reports that sharp shooter Joe Giallang took 7 bass on Thursday up to 50 pounds, while trolling Lupo spoons off Cedar Beach in 30 feet of water. Some 30 pound fish were pulled from the Cedar surf on live eels and weighed in at Jonas'. Some flounder all over the bays, but not too great due to the high prevailing water temperatures. They are feeding i spurts on bloodworm. Blacks are still at the bridges and the Kismet Reef on green crabs and on fiddlers. Blue claws are still available for those with traps. Jonas weighed in a codfish this week and cod 20 to 46 pounds are being taken by sharpies at offshore wrecks.

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Bait and Tackle reports flounder throughout the bay along with crabs, with Zachs Bay, Squaw and West Islands producing best on worms. West of the 2nd Wantagh is also prime flounder grounds. Stripers off Gilgo and Tobay along with blues for the trollers. Lon weighed in a 40 pounder taken on a Lupo bunker spoon. Other hot lures are black tubes and the 3 ounce Alou eel.

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SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Joe air and Jonas Hagan with their 17 lb. bass and 10 lb. blue caught while chartering the "Rocc". All fish were caught on bunker spoons off Long Beach.

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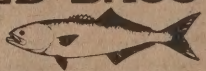

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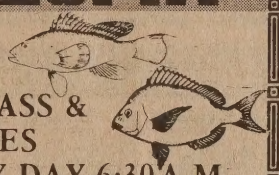
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MERRICK

Nicks Fishing Station tells us that Joe Dymant on Friday took a 36½, 27¼ and 19 pound bass trolling Gilgo and the Roda wreck area with Lupo spoons. Three more big bass were taken Sunday, a 22, 23 and 14 pounder in 25-35 feet of water. The flounder are hitting in spurts in various spots behind the Merricks. Some fish large, some fish small. George Zipper had 3 bass at the bridge on live baby blackfish.

N.Y. BIGHT Fishing Report

FREEPORT

The **Captain Al** reports pretty fair fishing despite the warm weather, with every day seeing a pool winning cod in the 30-35 pound category. Saturday, hi-hook was 6 cod. Lots of big porgies and seabass are taken on each trip also, but mostly cod. Billy Lindroth says that 40 cod came over the rail on Sunday, and 60 cod preceeded them on Saturday, average fish 15 pounds. They are generally hitting 4 wrecks per trip. A 42 pounder was taken on Wednesday by one happy customer.

Captain Richie Kessinger of the **Starstream II** tells us that he has been doing excellent on the seabass, porgies and blackfish, which is the species which he is after these days. Big blues are constantly taking the pool each day, scarfing up the baits fished on the bottom. These are blues in the 14 pound class. Larry McCall of McCalls clothing in Hempstead has boated this past week 52 blackfish, 75 seabass, and a sack of porgies.

The **Empire Fleet** loaded up on blues at Cholera on Sunday, fish up to 12½ pounds, for the Hudson Bay Fishing Club. An 8 pound fluke was also bagged, as testimony to the warm weather. Live bergalls are apparently the best bet. Seabass up to 2 pounds are being taken also. Captain Marty says his first cod charter is next Saturday.

Captain Paul Schmidt of the **Aloma II** had very good flounder fishing Monday through Friday, fish ¾ to 1 pound, with Wednesday, Thursday and Friday exceptionally good with 15 to 20 fish per man, working Long Creek. The weekend was a little less productive due to the usual poor weekend weather along with

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George Anderson caught this 38½ lb. striper at Lido Beach aboard the "Kim".

tons of private boats out for a last fling. Captain John on the **Aloma** continues to keep customers happy with good catches of blacks and seabass on local wrecks. The **Aloma II** will continue fishing for flounder Monday through Friday, sailing from 7:30 A.M. and is now sailing for codfish Saturday and Sunday, sailing 6 A.M.

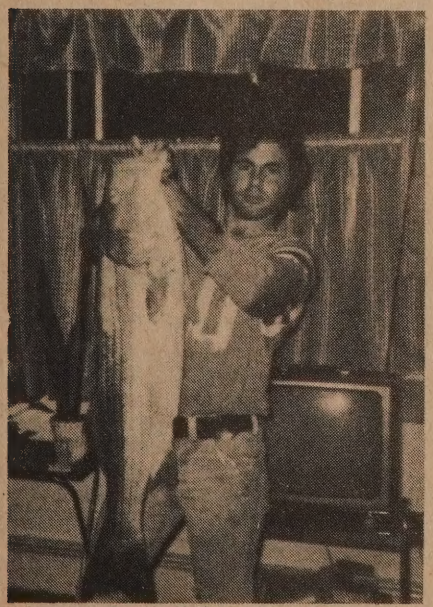
Anthony's Fishing Station reports flounder fishing good, 20-25 flatties per boat. Frank Oshinski on Sunday had 49 good sized flounder up to 1½ pounds. Hot spots are Funday, High Flats Drain and Swifts Creek. The Meadowbrook Bridge is best for a blackfish on green crab.

Captain Dave Pigott of the **Lucky Strike III** has been doing nicely this weekend with blackfish up to 5 pounds and seabass up to 2½ pounds on local offshore wrecks.

POINT LOOKOUT

Captain Andy of the **Marie III** tells us that he will start codfishing as soon as the water cools off some more. Ernie was on a busmans holiday on Sunday, taking a 10 pound bass off Gilgo.

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** said last weeks storm seemed to have put the flounder down in the beginning of the week. Since then they were up better than last week. There are some flounders that go to 1¼ lbs. and they can be found at Swift Creek, Fundy Bay, along the flats and in Reynolds Channel at buoys 16 and 18. Blacks of 2-3 pounds are in good quantities at the Meadowbrook bridges on fiddlers. Bigger blacks are being taken at the Tea Wreck. There are still isolated pockets of blues off Jones Inlet.

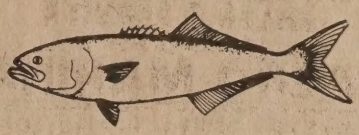


Jim McGurk of Deer Park took this 25½ lb. striped bass at the Fire Island Parking Field #2 at 8:30 P.M. on an old mackerel popper at high tide.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports big bass being taken at the Atlantic Beach Bridge. S. Futterman with Robert Scott, both of Long Beach, live lined bunker from their boat and came up with a forty pounder. There are loads of bunker on their wag out past the bridge. One of the **Long Beach Sports Marina's** rental boats came back from buoy 9 in Reynolds Channel with 60 flounder. They were all taken on worms and some went to 2 pounds. Fred Reynolds II of East Rockaway used fiddler crabs at the Atlantic Beach Bridge to come up with a big catch of blackfish.

We received a report that on Saturday night a 50 pound 3 ounce striped bass was taken off Lido Beach from the surf on a fresh dead bunker on the top of the incoming tide. The angler wishes to remain anonymous.



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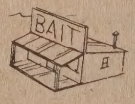

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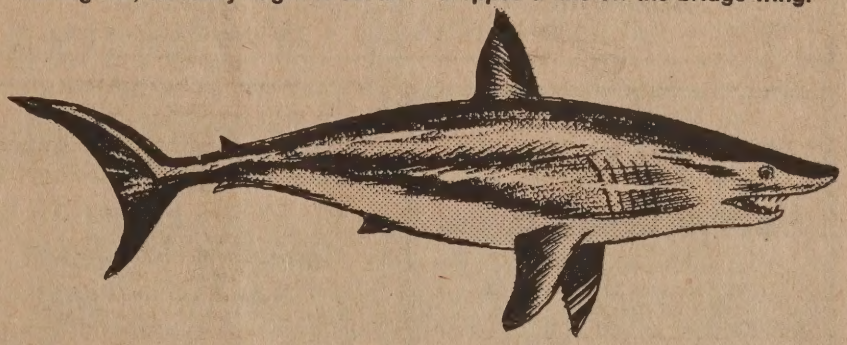
ATLANTIC BEACH

Captain Bob Foley of the charterboat **Debi** had a 21 and 28 pound bass on Wednesday off Lido, both taken on 17 inch red Lupo tubes in 25 to 30 feet of water. Bob advises that the last three days have seen the major action off Gilgo and Tobay, fish going mainly to trollers.

Captain Ronnie Lepper of the charterboat **Kim** reports that all week, the striper fishing has been very good off Gilgo and Tobay. Angler Gregg Quinn, President of the Long Beach Bass Club nailed a 61 pound striped bass on a Lupop spoon at the Roda wreck on Thursday, fishing from his own boat. This fish was verified and weighed in at Ralph's Tackle Shop. Captain Ron says he has been getting 6-8 stripers per day, 25-40 pounds on Lupo bunker spoons and Danny plugs in 35 feet of water, the fish seeming to prefer the white plug and also the gold colored offering. On Saturday the bad weather kept most of the boats tied up, though a few got out. Another few got out in the afternoon. Sunday was a striped bass bonanza, but of smaller fish, indicating the migration is starting in earnest. Lots of schoolies moved into the area, with most boats getting fish, with enough 20-30 pound bass around to make it interesting. Bigger fish were taken on spoons, and smaller fish hitting red tubes and red umbrellas. A big body of large choppers are now at Nortons Point. Buddy Rogal of Regal Park had 200 pounds of blues, all taken on the Lupo All Mighty Squid on his boat, the "J & B".

Very good flounder fishing reports Leon at **Hennings Fishing Station**. Bannister Creek, Woodmere Channel, the north side of buoy 5 and along the private docks to the east are all very good spots. Leon says the blacks are so

It's not often that the skipper of a party fishing boat finds a spare minute to drop his line over the side. He's too busy "fishing the boat". But when he does get out his trusty fishing rod, he really ought to set an example! Capt. Bob Glas did just that aboard the HEL-CAT on Nov.2 while fishing in the Race. Here's the 44 pound striped bass that grabbed the hook when he just casually dropped a line off the bridge wing.



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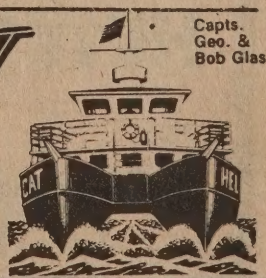

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Mr. Alan Harleston of Coram called into LIF a description of his car by the Friday deadline to become this weeks LIF Litter Box Contest Winner. Mr. Harleston has been sent a check for $40 and has also chosen a free fishing trip for two aboard the Viking Star of Montauk for his prize. For information on how you may participate in the contest see page 20.

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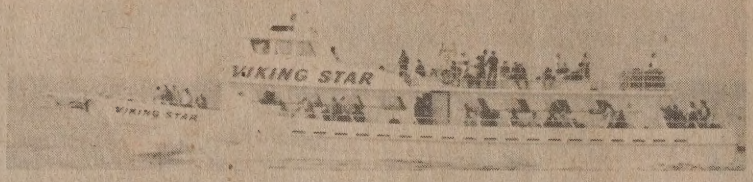

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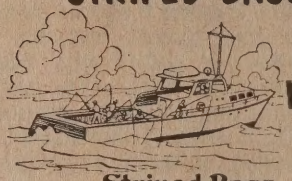

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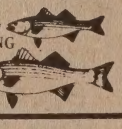

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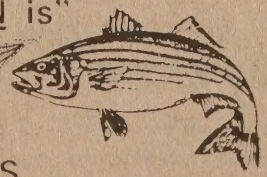

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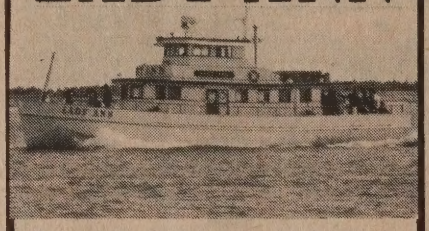
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plentiful that they are as deep as your hip pockets. Find a rocky spot and you can catch averaged sized 2-2½ pound blacks with an occasional one of 5 or 6 pounds. There are more striped bass then blues in Reynolds Channel now. Snag some of the numerous bunker and fish them on an early morning or late afternoon tide. Bottom of the outgoing is preferable. Yizhar Glaser of Atlantic Beach, on Friday afternoon, took an 32, 38½ and 24 pound striped bass all in approximately 1½ hours. He live lined bunker with a 15 pound spin outfit. Bunker spoon trolling off Gilgo has also been producing good catches.

JAMAICA BAY

According to George at **Crossbay Rod and Gun** all the fishing action is at the North or South Channel bridges. Flounders are taking blood worms there and are in fair quantities. Blackfish of 1-2 pounds are biting on blood worms or fiddler crabs. Striped bass are hitting pretty well on live eels. At the North Channel bridge there has been erratic catches of blues on bunker chunks. As for the blue claw crabs they are just about finished.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

The **Helen H** is scheduled to come out of the shipyard this week and should be ready to sail by the weekend. Check ad for sailing time.

Captain Harold Wrege of the **Chief** reports great blackfishing and seabass catches all week plus a load of ling on Saturday along with the blackfishing, biggest ling was 4 pounds, which also took the pool. The **Chief** has been fishing mainly around the Tower. The blackfish all week have been going to 10 pounds, with most of the fish 5 to 8 pounds and seabass up to ½ pound. The roll on Saturday caused the fishing to be off a bit and Sunday was a slow pick for the seabass and blackfish, again due to the weather.

Captain Joe of the **Blue Sea II** reports plenty of bluefish all week, and of good size. The **Blue Sea II** will now be jigging for striped bass along with bluefish, a very productive technique, utilizing the A-27 jig by Ava. Joe will be codfishing as soon as waters cool.

Joe at **Slavo's Bait and Tackle** says the Romer Shoals, Hoffman Island and Verranzano Bridge area has stripers and blues like you have never seen. They are being taken on live bunker and eels as well as umbrella rigs rigged with Salvo's Jolly Green Giant tube as a center trailing teaser. This week Joe weighed

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For up-to-the-minute fishing information, read Frank Keating's fishing column in the L.I. Press seven days a week.

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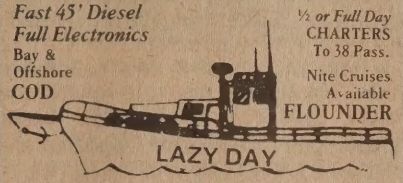

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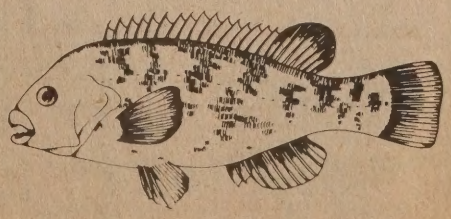
20 striped bass none under 20 pounds. The blues are also busting out all over. Fritz Hansen on his boat the "Gypsy" took a 51 pound bass on a live eel. At the bulkhead at Bay 8th St., Margaret Marro of Brooklyn, using a 15 pound spin outfit took a 39 pound striped bass on a bunker chunk. Although the flounder are still small they are showing up pretty good. Either blood or sand worms are Okay. Blackfish are still pretty strong and are taking fiddler or clams. There have been some 5 pound blacks taken at the Coney Island Pier.

Captain Tony of the **Big Mohawk II** has had charters out Saturday and Sunday and had good catches of blackfish, with Saturday's pool going to Brooklyn angler Michael Fadl, with an 8½ pound black. Lots of seabass mixed in, and just a few porgies which Tony says are as good as gone now for the season. The bulk of the weekend's catch for the **Mohawk** was off the Seabright area and various rocks and wrecks. The **Big Mohawk II** is running its own Cod Tournament starting November 15th through March 28th, entry fee is $1 per angler per trip.

Captain Fred of the **Amberjack IV** informs us that his regular codfishing trip Sunday was poor due to the lack of cod, which is due to the high water temperature. Dogfish however were there in super abundance. Many were kept by those aboard as evidentally word of the dogies good eating qualities is spreading. A sprinkling of seabass, blacks and porgies saved the day somewhat. The **Amberjack** is now codfishing every day.

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny at **Santo's Sport Shop** said that Penny Beach and Cliff Street are holding their own with the striped bass all week. An unconfirmed report of a 30 lb. bass from this area was heard. There have also been some blues to 15 pounds taken by these worm dunkers. South Beach has also had blues in the 8-10 pound range. The action has been mostly at night using cut bunker. Great Kills Park has some nice flounder action with fish of ½ to 1 lb. size. Catches of ½ dozen to 2 dozen have been had using worms. Mount Loretta has had bass of shorts to 5 pounds showing. They have been taken on worms, poppers and bucktails. Boat fishing near the 21 can has been mostly bluefish action with a few stripers. Bunker spoon or Gorilla rig trolling are the methods. The same methods are used at Nortons Point where the bluefishing was hot. The triangle of Romar Shoals, West Bank light and Flynns Knoll was also good for blues and big 30-50 lb. stripers. Again the bunker spoon or Gorilla rigs were used. Of course someone always has to be different. If not, how else would we find new methods to catch fish. This was done by an angler on the boat "Pipp" who used big Creek Chub swimminers to boat a 40 pound and 50 pound striped bass late Saturday afternoon.



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NORTH SHORE Fishing Report

GREENPORT

Terrific blues and bass fishing said **Art White**. The blues are being caught on bunker, yellow bucktails and some diamond jigs or rigged bunker. At present they are in the Race and east of Gardiners Island. Yellow bucktails are taking striped bass in Plum Gut. Gull and Plum Islands are both good producers of blackfish. Green crabs seems to be the best bait. Some people are catching so many blacks that they are keeping only those over 3 pounds. Flounders are at Pipes Cove, east of the Greenport Jetty and near Orient. Blood or sand worms and skimmer clams are the bait.

The open boats **Brand X** and the **Wilhelric** are both enjoying bonanza catches of blues. Along with these blues are many good catches of striped bass. These bass are in size from babies to bruisers. Don't delay anglers, unless it is blowing a gale, it pays to go out as these are making ready to move out. Plenty of big ones are there to be caught as these are the last to leave for warmer waters.

Captain George Porter of the **Brand X** called to tell us that the bass and bluefishing has been hot and heavy lately. More than 40 bass were taken during the week in Plum Gut fishing a 2 ounce yellow bucktail on a fluke rig. Bluefish are stacked up in the Race and at Pigeon Rip. On Sunday there were too many bluefish to count, but the largest 20 ranged from 17 to 20 pounds. The 4 mates were constantly gaffing fish and all aboard had a bag or more of bluefish. The charterboat **Eleanor** has been chartering for big blackfish and is experiencing one of the best year in years. Hot areas are Little Gull Island, Constellation Rock and the north side of Plum Island.

SOUTHOLD

According to Peter at the **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** this has been the best Sunday of the fall season so far. Blacks are being caught at the Orient Point Lighthouse, Mulford Point and straight out from the Orient Fishing Station. The best bet is green crabs or hermit crabs if you can get them. Flounders up to 1½ to

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2 pounds are being taken on clams or worms. Petley's Bight and around the point near the ferry dock are both good places for flounders. Blues have been very good in the Plum Gut and the Race. In Southold Bay at the Brickyard there are blackfish. At Beixedon small flounders are being taken. Peter said they will be open at least one more weekend.

MT. SINAI HARBOR

Ralph's Fishing Station reports a lot of blacks to 4 and 5 pounds are being taken on green crabs. No particular tide is best but you need moving water. Flounders are making a weak showing in the harbor. Locally, striped bass have not been seen as yet. At the Middle Grounds blues have been trolled on bucktails.

Barry at **Queensland Cove Tackle** said the Shoreham-Wading River area has loads of blacks. Quite a few have run up as high as 5 to 9 pounds. Green crabs are the preferred bait with fiddlers the second choice. Small catches of small ½

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The Long Island Fisherman will publish items relating to club news as they become available. Our only limitation is sufficient space, so news will be published on a "first-come, first served" basis.

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to ¾ pound flounders are being taken on all tides at Mt. Sinai Harbor. More blues than bass have been taken at the Wading River-Shoreham area. Try live eels or bunker chunks.

PORT JEFFERSON

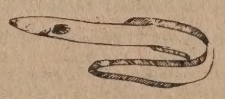
Blacks are plentiful at Old Field Point as reported by Scooter at **Port Jefferson Sport Shop**. The usual green or fiddler crabs are the bait in that order. The Cedar Beach fishing pier has seen the start of the flounder fishing on worms. Some blacks are also being taken there on crabs. Blues are still being taken at Middle Grounds on tubes. The striped bass fishing has been very slow.

NORTHPORT

Captain Don of the **Ever Ready** reports that Saturday was a great blackfishing day at 11B, with Captain Pete Novilino at the Helm. 18 people bagged slightly over 100 blacks with Bob Richardson hi-hook with 15 fish, the days catch running up to 10½ pounds. Sunday morning's blackfish trip was not as productive due to the weather, but Sunday afternoon's flounder run was very good with fish running up to 1 pound.

HUNTINGTON

Ronnies Bait and Tackle said the blackfishing is pretty fantastic. The blacks are not only at Target Rock, buoys 11B and 13 but also can be had from the beach at Sand City or Crab Meadow and Makamah beaches. Small flounders are in at all the harbors, Huntington, Lloyds and Northport. Some nice sized ones were taken from Lloyds drifting sand worms. Striped bass trolling with black umbrella rigs or white bucktails has been very good at buoy 13. Ronnie and some of his friends trolled worms off Huntington Inlet on Saturday afternoon. They wound up with a 25 and



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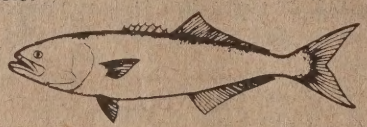
a 33 pound striped bass and six others. Ronnie said there are tinker mackerel around and if you can get some live ones they should be dynamite on bass.

CITY ISLAND

Jack's Bait and Tackle reports lots of blacks on fiddler crabs at Execution Light Pea Island, Harts Island, Stepping Stones and Sands Point Light. These fish seem to be moving into deeper water. Flounders are still holding up in East Chester Bay and are of nice size. The tasty tommy cod are also taking the sand worms meant for flounders. They can be found on muddy bottom and are best on the last of the incoming and the beginning of the outgoing tide.

Don of Wet-A-Line Bait and Tackle and friends John and Sal with 3 striped bass they caught. The 46 pound 6 ounce fish was caught at Moriches Inlet and the 50 lb. 2 oz. and 26 lb. 2 oz. bass was caught at Cedar Beach. All were taken on live eels.



CONNECTICUT SCENE

Blackfishing is getting better by the day. Most of the well known spots along the western Sound are now producing large catches. Fiddler crabs are good but green crabs will produce larger fish.

Striper action is the same as last week, with school fish abundant but few big fish in sight. Larger bass taken this week were caught on Gibbs Darters and eels.

Bluefishing is still good both trolling and with bunker chunks.

NEW JERSEY Fishing Report

Staten Island

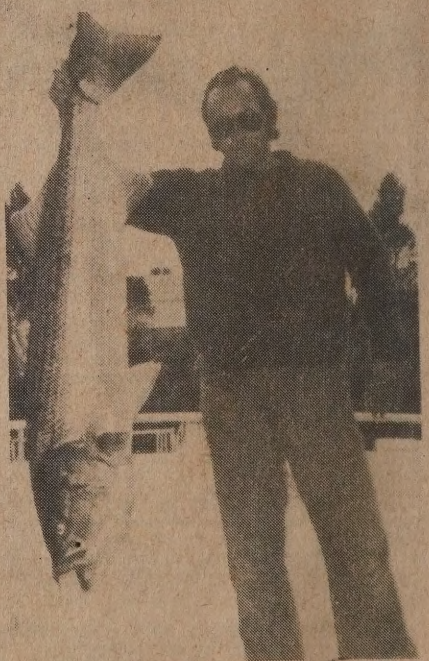
Santo's Sport Shop reported striper action from the beach as being very good. Sand worms are taking large numbers of school stripers with cut bait which is producing large numbers of bluefish. Flounder fishing is best at Great Kills Park. Crabbing is also good here.

Sandy Hook

Flounder fishing in the river, but most fish are small. On Sandy Hook, the beach fishing is good at the Officers Beach. Live eels and big plugs are the things to use there as an abundance of bluefish on the Shrewsbury Rocks.

Sea Bright

The jetties are producing stripers for the surfman, with bait producing better than artificials. Sand worms or bunker are your best bet but big plugs will also take fish at the right time of day. Pencil Poppers and big Atom Swimmers are the best plugs.



Vincent Paul Maronna of Brooklyn caught this 50 lb. striped bass while trolling with surgical tubing off Nortons Point. The fish was weighed in by Fred Abbazio and Paul Ciardi at Schatz Bros. Marina. Photo courtesy of Liz Maronna.

TIDE TABLES

ON →	SANDY HOOK		NEW LONDON		WILLETS POINT		BRIDGE-PORT	
DAY	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM	AM	PM
11/13 THURSDAY	3:21	3:41	5:21	5:38	7:41	8:06	6:56	7:20
11/14 FRIDAY	4:14	4:33	6:01	6:22	8:26	8:53	7:43	8:08
11/15 SATURDAY	5:02	5:20	6:43	7:02	9:07	9:35	8:29	8:53
11/16 SUNDAY	5:44	6:05	7:16	7:42	9:43	10:09	9:11	9:35
11/17 MONDAY	6:23	6:45	7:51	8:19	10:04	10:36	9:50	10:16
11/18 TUESDAY	7:00	7:23	8:27	8:56	10:23	10:54	10:30	10:56
11/19 WEDNESDAY	7:36	8:02	9:02	9:37	10:53	11:21	11:08	11:36
11/20 THURSDAY	8:13	8:41	9:41	10:17	11:30	11:58	11:47	—

SANDY HOOK

SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Potunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Inlet & Dem. Pt.	−0 38
Coast Giard Sta.	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0 25
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 00
Beach Ch. (Bridge)	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26
STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
MANASQUAN	−0 12

WILLETS POINT

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	−0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28

NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Connecticut River	+1 10
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	−0 14
Fort Pond Bay	−0 29
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point	−1 13

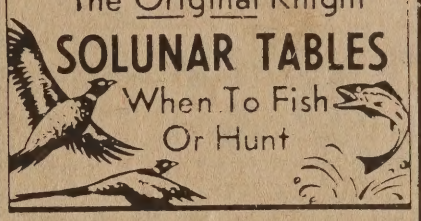
BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	−0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	−0 08
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and/or minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet −0 50" is listed under "on Sandy Hook". − 0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

When To Fish Or Hunt



The schedule of solunar periods for the following week as printed below has been taken from the original Knight Solunar Tables. Plan your day so that you will be fishing good territory, hunting good cover during these times if you wish to find the best sport that each has to offer. The tables are not a guarantee that you will catch fish or see game during the period, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for an hour and a half or two hours thereafter, and are in black face type. The minor periods are somewhat shorter in duration.

	A.M		P.M.	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
11/13	12:05	6:30	12:30	6:50
11/14	12:40	7:10	1:05	7:30
11/15	1:20	7:55	1:45	8:15
11/16	2:05	8:30	2:30	8:50
11/17	2:40	9:10	3:05	9:30
11/18	3:20	9:55	3:45	10:20
11/19	4:05	10:45	4:35	11:15
11/20	4:55	11:45	5:30	

PHASES OF THE MOON

11-3	11-10	11-18	11-26
NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.

SUNRISE/SUNSET

11-6	6:34	4:53
11-12	6:40	4:47
11-18	6:47	4:42
11-24	6:54	4:39

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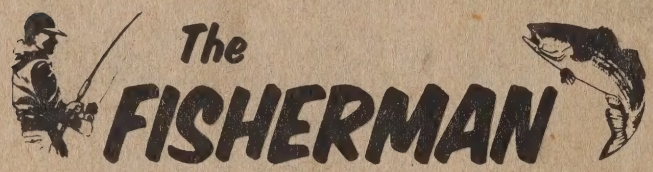

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